DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 330 505 RC 018 051

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TITLE Teaching about Native Americans. Books for Children and Young Adults. A Guide to Books about Native Americans.
PUB DATE Jun 90
NOTE 11p.
PUB TYPE Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *American Indian Culture; American Indian History; *American Indian Literature; *American Indians; Books; Cultural Awareness; *Cultural Education; Elementary Secondary Education
IDENTIFIERS *Native Americans

ABSTRACT

This bibliography lists 178 books which can be incorporated into teaching units about Native Americans. Sections within the list are: (1) Books for Children and Young Adults, 117 entries; (2) Books for Adolescents, 37 entries; (3) Reference Books, 13 entries; and (4) Adult Resources: A Simple Beginning, 11 entries. Each entry contains the name of the author(s) or editor(s), book title, and the publisher. Publication dates range from 1960 to 1990. A guide is included that lists 10 quick ways to analyze children's books for sexism and racism. (ALL)

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TEACHING ABOUT NATIVE AMERICANS

Books for Children and Young Adults

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> I would caution readers and students of American Indian life and culture to remember that Indian America does not in any sense function in the same ways or from the same assumptions that western systems do. Unless and until that fact is clearly acknowledged, it is virtually impossible to make much sense out of the voluminous materials available concerning American Indians.
>
> Paula Gunn Allen (1986)

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Ten Quick Ways to Analyze Children's Books for Sexism and Racism

1. Check the Illustrations.
   Look for stereotypes.
   Look for tokenism.
   Who's doing what? (active, leadership roles vs passive, subservient roles)
2. Check the Story Line.
   Standard for success. (via "white" behavior or extraordinary abilities)
   Resolution of problems. (are minorities the "problem" or are problems solved only by Anglos)
   Role of women.
3. Look at the Lifestyles.
   (inaccuracies, inappropriate or simplistic depictions of Indian cultures)
4. Consider the Relationships Between People.
   (who has power, exhibits leadership, and solves problems and how are families depicted)
5. Note the Heros.
   (whose interests is a particular hero serving?)
6. Consider the Effects on a Child's Self-Image.
7. Consider the Author's or Illustrators Background.
   (qualifications to write about the topic)
8. Examine the Author's Perspective.
   (look for a particular ethnocentric perspective)
9. Watch for Loaded Words.
   (words with offensive overtones)
10. Look at the Copyright Date.
    (older books are often more laden with racism)

(Council on Interracial Books for Children 1980)

Dr. Karen D. Harvey
June, 1990